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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9993
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4915
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 7726
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3681
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHFJSCC/COMMARFORPAC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 005234

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NSC FOR PHU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/02/2017

TAGS: PGOV PHUM PREL BM TH

SUBJECT: THAI MFA ON BURMA, CHINA VIEWS

REF: STATE 137644

Classified By: Ambassador Ralph L. Boyce, reason 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Ambassador made reftel points to MFA Permsec Virasakdi Futrukul on October 3. Permsec Virasakdi took note of the points but offered no direct response.

¶2. (C) Virasakdi told the Ambassador that he had spoken to a Chinese diplomat recently, who had said that "there was evidence the US is behind" the demonstrations, through providing financing and perhaps other assistance. Virasakdi, commenting on China's concerns, drew a parallel to the Russian response to its neighbors' "color revolutions," noting that China is also concerned about its 'soft underbelly.' The Ambassador dismissed the allegations of a US hand in the demonstrations. Virasakdi said he wasn't sure if the Chinese were simply "buying the Burmese line" or whether they actually believed it.

¶3. (C) Virasakdi also speculated on the whereabouts of Than Shwe's family, currently believed to be in Laos. Virasakdi said that he had learned of a recent request by the Burmese government for a VVIP flight clearance to Singapore. He suggested that this flight carried Than Shwe's family. (Note: Virasakdi did not specify the exact date of the flight. We note that, according to press reports, PM Soe Win returned to Burma from Singapore right before his reported death today. This could be another explanation for the VVIP flight. End note.)

BOYCE